(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Ramanathan Committee has not been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) to (d) National Rural Roads Programme is currently being formulated to provide rural connectivity in the country. Central funds are proposed to be provided to construct All-weather roads to the unconnected village including those with special problems.

Creation of employment opportunities in Tamil Nadu

1226. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is a part of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for which Government are giving assistance.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the target fixed for creating employment opportunities for rural areas and landless persons in Tamil Nadu during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was a wage-employment programme which has been restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.e.f. Ist April 1999. The main objective of the restructured programme is to create need based rural infrastructure at the village level. The target fixed for creation of wage-employment and achievement thereon under the erstwhile JRY from 1995-96 to 1998-99 in respect of Tamil Nadu are given below. No target for employment generation is fixed under JGSY as the main thrust of the scheme is creation of rural infrastructure.

Year	Targets (lakh mandays)	Achievements (lakh mandays)
1995-1996	853.09	1069.75
1996-1997	406.90	488.60
1997-1998	312.56	388.81
1998-1999	230.42	280.97
1999-2000	Not Fixed	170.27

Conversion of wasteland into Fertile Land

1227. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the wasteland all over the country;

(b) if so, what is the total area in hectares;

(c) how much of the wasteland has been converted into fertile land by the Wasteland Development Board, till date;

(d) how much money has been spent on this;

(e) how much annual income is being derived from the conversion of the wasteland into fertile land; and

(f) what steps are being taken for conversion of the remaining wasteland into fertile land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the "Wastelands Atlas of India, 200", brought out by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, using Remote Sensing Technologies, the total extent of wastelands in the country is 63.85 m.ha.

(c) and (d) The Department of Land Resources (the erswhile Department of Wastelands Development) has the mandate to develop wastelands in non-forest areas, aimed at checking land degradation, putting such lands to productive use and increasing bio-mass